

Serial No. 10/054,911

Art unit: 2874

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 5, after line 13 ending – the demultiplexer; and – please insert a new paragraph as follows:

-- Figure 6 shows the same structure as Figure 5, but with a thin SiO₂ layer deposited on top of the SiN layer to adjust the compensator strength. --

At page 11, please replace the paragraph commencing at line 9 by a new paragraph as follows:

-- In a further embodiment shown in Figure 6, a lower refractive index overlying layer 20 of SiO₂ ($N \approx 1.46$) is deposited on top of the silicon nitride layer ($N \approx 1.9$). The strength of the compensator is adjusted by varying the thickness of this overlying SiO₂ layer 20. The change in $\Delta\lambda$ with oxide thickness is now approximately three times smaller than for an identical change in the thickness of the nitride layer 15. --